

AP Art History

Mr. Charles Basman

Hello everyone, and welcome to the AP Art History course! This summer reading and related assignment should give you a good head start to a great year of examining and thinking about significant works of art created throughout the centuries.

The AP Art History Course prepares students for the AP Art History Exam. The course covers art from Global Prehistoric Art through Global Contemporary Art and is designed to provide students with the same material covered in an introductory college course in art history.

To prevent you from writing essays that simply describe a work of art, I'll be encouraging you to focus on five areas in your writing and in-class discussion:

- Subject matter – What subject inspired the work? What subject is portrayed in the work?
- Function • Artistic decision making – How did the artist make use of the elements of art and principles of design?
- Contextual analysis – How did the world around the artist affect the artistic process? What was the message (feeling, mood, idea) that the artist wanted to convey?
- Cultural impact – What message (feeling, mood, or idea) did you get from the work? This might be different from the message that the artist wished to convey.

Contemplating these five factors will help you to see art as a meaningful part of your life. (Looking at these five areas won't just apply to masterpieces but also to images and objects found in our everyday world that we consider to be art)

Here is your summer assignment:

Due: September 10, 2025

1. Go to the Khan Academy AP Art History Website:
[AP® Art History | College Art History | Khan Academy](#)

Go to the Start Here Section and go over the resources located in that section.

You will explore the basics:

1. The 250 Required Works of Art for AP Art History
2. Why do we look at Art?
3. How to do Visual and Formal analysis in Art history
4. A brief history of religion in Art History
5. How art can help you analyze

2. Sometime over the summer, visit a gallery or museum and write up your experience. In about two pages explain the exhibit/museum that you visited, make mention of three pieces that caught your eye, and discuss why and how they engaged you as a viewer.

My goal is to get a writing sample from you at the beginning of the year. It's also meant to encourage you to visit the museum and sit for a while and experience actual works of art (if you've never been, it's a different experience from just seeing them in a book/magazine/online).

3. Join Google Classroom to set up for this course:

<https://meet.google.com/qne-kbdv-cef>

You may submit your assignment in Classroom or via email.

My email is cbasman@stdominicacad.com.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a great summer and I will see you all soon!

Mr. Basman